

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EWWT, FI

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON GREAT

---- LAKES WINTER NAVIGATION

REF: STATE 063769

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION BELOW FROM OFFICE OF BRIG. GEN. WALTER O. BACHUS, US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND CHAIRMAN, GREAT LAKES WINTER NAVIGATION BOARD.

2. HISTORICALLY, NAVIGATION THROUGH THE SOO LOCKS HAS ENDED ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 16 AND HAS NOT RESUMED UNTIL APPROXIMATELY APRIL 1, A CLOSURE OF 105 DAYS. ON ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY, NAVIGATION HAS HISTORICALLY CLOSED ON OR ABOUT DECEMBER 12 AND HAS REMAINED CLOSED UNTIL EARLY APRIL.

A "DEMONSTRATION" PROGRAM IN EFFECT SINCE 1971 IS DESIGNED TO DELAY THE CLOSING AND EXPEDITE THE OPENING OF BOTH THE SOO LOCKS AND THE ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY IN SEVERE ICE CONDITIONS. USING THE FACILITIES AND RESOURCES OF THE COAST GUARD, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, THE WEATHER BUREAU, AS WELL AS THOSE OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY, THE PROGRAM CONSTITUTES A COMPREHENSIVE ATTACK ON THE WINTER NAVIGATION PROBLEM IN THESE AREAS. UNDER THE

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PROGRAM, A VARIETY OF PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED,

SUCH AS WARM WATER BUBBLER SYSTEMS IN KEY HARBORS, THE WARMING OF LOCK GATES, BETTER COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF WEATHER INFORMATION, THE DEPLOYMENT OF A USCG ICE-BREAKER AT THE SOO RAPIDS THROUGHOUT THE WINTER, ETC. ALL THESE MEASURES HAVE HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS AS INDICATED IN THE TABLE BELOW.

- ST. LAWRENCE
- WINTER SOO LOCKS SEAWAY
- CLOS OPEN CLOS OPEN
- 1971 - 1972 FEB. 1 APRIL 5 DEC. 20 APRIL 12
- 1972 - 1973 FEB. 8 MARCH 28 DEC. 23 MARCH 28
- 1973 - 1974 FEB. 7 APRIL 6 DEC. 17 MARCH 26
- 1974 - 1975 12 MONTH DEC. 18 MARCH 25
- NAVIGATION

3. THE APPROXIMATE FIGURES FOR UNEMPLOYMENT CAUSED ANNUALLY AS A RESULT OF THE SHUTDOWN OF GREAT LAKES TRANSPORTATION IS : DIRECT, 25,000; INDIRECT, 60,000. INGERSOLL

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